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Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 July 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the self-explanatory letter dated 11 July 2003 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

As you are well aware, following the refusal of the Greek Cypriot side of our confidence-building measures package of 2 April 2003, the Turkish Cypriot side implemented a unilateral confidence-building measure involving the facilitation of free movement of peoples between the two sides. Although the Greek Cypriot side was reluctant to reciprocate this major step, both the Turkish Cypriot people and the Greek Cypriot people have reacted positively.

In view of the encouraging results of our first initiative, we would like to seek Your Excellency's support for initiating another major undertaking. Secretary-General Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had also assessed in the early 1990s that the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides had to be addressed through the creation of a new climate of confidence, thus facilitating a comprehensive settlement. Based on this assessment, he had proposed a confidence-building measures package. Negotiations on this package continued in 1993 and 1994, but the package could not be concluded.

I firmly believe, however, that if we could, for example, open Nicosia International Airport again to serve both sides on the basis of the final United Nations confidence-building measures proposals of 1993-1994, this would greatly enhance the confidence-building efforts that we have initiated and would, in turn, substantially contribute to efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement.

In my consultations with the Government of Turkey regarding this package, it has been confirmed to me that, if this new confidence-building package is implemented, the Turkish authorities could be able to contribute to this positive move by opening Turkish sea and air ports, as well as Turkish airspace, to Greek Cypriot ships and aeroplanes. In this context, they have also expressed their wish to develop reciprocal trade relations.

Of course, this package cannot be implemented unilaterally and would require the cooperation and agreement of the Greek Cypriot side and of the United Nations. I would appreciate it, therefore, if Your Excellency would use your good offices in moving this proposal forward with the objective of securing an early and positive result. I believe this is important in order to maintain the positive climate that has come about as a result of our first initiative.

In any case, it is high time that the restrictions and embargo weighing so heavily on the Turkish Cypriot people, especially as regards overseas travel, tourism, trade and exports/imports, are lifted.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President